

Washington, DC—Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) today announced \$1,063,125 in funding for Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP) to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan to protect and recover at least eight federally-listed species that rely on the water from the Edwards Aquifer. The grant was provided through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant Program and will impact the counties of Atascosa, Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, Medina, and Uvalde.

“I am pleased to see the Edwards Aquifer Implementation Program has received this much needed funding,” said Rodriguez. “Allowing the residents of South Central Texas continued access to this important water source and at the same time protecting the species that rely on the water is important to the region.”

“This is an important grant for the Program. The grant will be used to further the progress of the EARIP in their efforts to achieve a consensus-based solution for protecting threatened and endangered species affected by the use of the Edwards Aquifer while recognizing the needs of the region for water,” said Con Mims, the Chair of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program. “We are grateful to Congressman Rodriguez and others in the Texas delegation for recognizing the importance of the program to the region and their support for the continued success of the EARIP.”

The Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP) was directed by the Texas Legislature in 2007 to create a plan by 2012 for managing the Aquifer to preserve at least eight federally-listed species that depend on the Edwards Aquifer. Funding from this grant will allow EARIP to continue with its state-mandated tasks within the required timeframe. The Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program is made up of stakeholders from across the region including State of Texas agencies, local water resource authorities, water purveyors, environmental groups, municipalities, public utilities, and other individuals and groups interested in protecting the species that depend on the Edwards Aquifer. #

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